

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for treating and/or improving insulin resistance by reducing insulin resistance, the method comprising administering to a patient having reduced insulin sensitivity a nutritional and/or pharmaceutical product comprising lactulose in an amount from about 0.2 to about 90% by total weight of the product, a protein source in an amount from about 21 to about 40% by weight of the product, a lipid source in an amount from about 5% to about 40% of the total energy of the product, and a carbohydrate source in an amount that is less than 10% by weight of the product.

Claims 2-3 (canceled):

Claim 4 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, for increasing insulin sensitivity.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A method for treating and/or improving insulin resistance by reducing insulin resistance which comprises administering to a patient in need of same an effective amount of a composition comprising lactulose, a protein source in an amount from about 21 to about 40% by weight of the composition, a lipid source in an amount from about 5% to about 40% of the total energy of the composition, and a carbohydrate source in an amount that is less than 10% by weight of the composition, wherein the lactulose is administered in an amount of from 0.1 to 1.5g per kg body weight.

Claim 6 (canceled):

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method of ~~claim 3~~claim 1, wherein the amount of lactulose in the composition is in the range of from 0.5 to 50 % by weight based on the total weight of the composition.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The method of ~~claim 3~~claim 1, wherein the amount of lactulose in the composition is in the range of from 0.7 to 30 % by weight based on the total weight of the composition.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The method of ~~claim 3~~claim 1, wherein the amount of lactulose in the composition is in the range of from 5 to 25 % by weight based on the total weight of the composition.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The method of ~~claim 3~~claim 1, wherein the amount of lactulose in the composition is about 7 % by weight based on the total weight of the composition.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The method of ~~claim 6~~claim 5, wherein the lactulose is administered in an amount of from 0.3 to 0.8 g per kg body weight.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The method of ~~claim 6~~claim 5, wherein the lactulose is administered in an amount of about 0.5 g per kg body weight.

Claim 13 (previously presented): A method for treating and/or improving insulin resistance by reducing insulin resistance which comprises administering to a patient in need of same an effective amount of a composition comprising lactulose, wherein the composition is administered between 3 and 7 hours before a meal.